

Speeding down Jimi Hendrix Highway are 24-7 Spyz whose new album This Is... (Eastwest) is a tough mix of crunch guitar, strong vocals, funk with bits of reggae and rap.

Basically they take everything funky that's happened in rock and pop in the past two decades and wrap it up into one pungent mixture with nods along the way to George Clinton, Kid Creole and occasional bits of sly jazz-influenced singing. They have the instrumental and vocal chops to back it up and at their most metallic remain soulful.

The Hard Corps combine rap with a real three-piece band and a d.j. on their debut Def Before Dishonor (Interscope). The band leans towards metal but manages to keep things funky, while rappers Deputy Dirty Bob and The Beast are energized to the max delivering the anti crack "Three Blind Mice" and "Make My Day" in a way that makes you listen.

24-7 Spyz, Follow For Now, The Hard Corps: Fri., Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. at TLA, 334 South St., 922-1011.

--Peter Brown